

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A water sorptive product comprising:
a wet-laid web of a ~~superabsorbent polymer~~particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer; and
neutralization agent;
fiber; and
water;
wherein the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer, neutralization agent, water and the fiber are mixed together during the wet-laid process of making a wet-laid web,
wherein the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer is neutralized by the neutralization agent to form a superabsorbent polymer is partially neutralized wherein the neutralization of the polymer is conducted after mixing the polymer with the fiber during the wet-laid process of making a web, wherein the water sorptive product exhibits a superior centrifuge retention capacity property.
2. (Original) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a degree of neutralization less than about 80 mol %.
3. (Currently Amended) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the ~~superabsorbent polymer~~ particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer comprising the reaction product of:
 - (a) an olefinically-unsaturated acid selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid, sulfonic acid, and mixtures thereof;
 - (b) a compatible co-monomer for the acid of (a); and
 - (c) a cross-linking agent;

said reaction product (i) being water insoluble and (ii) having carboxyl groups present therein, which carboxyl groups, when neutralized to their salt form, maintain the polymer as water insoluble and convert the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer component into a superabsorbent polymer component.

4. (Original) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is surface cross-linked.

5. (Currently Amended) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the water sorptive product has a centrifuge retention capacity property above 10 grams/gram.

6. (Currently Amended) The water sorptive product of claim 1, wherein the water sorptive product has an absorbency under load property above about 13 grams/gram at about 20 grams/cm² (about 0.3 psi).

Claims 7-19 (Cancelled)

20. (New) A wet-laid web comprising:

a particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer;

a neutralizing agent;

fiber; and

water

wherein the ratio of the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer component to the fibrous component is in the range of from about 90:10 to about 5:95;

wherein the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer, neutralization agent, water and the fiber are mixed together during the wet-laid process of making a wet-laid web; and , wherein the particulate pre-superabsorbent polymer is neutralized by the neutralization agent to form a superabsorbent polymer having a degree of neutralization less than about 80 mol %.

21. (New) The wet-laid web of claim 20 wherein the ratio of the polymer component to the fibrous component is in the range of from about 30:70 to about 40:60.

22. (New) An absorbent article comprising the wet-laid web of claim 20.